REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 12-16, 18, 19, and 26-38 are pending. In this paper, claims 1, 3-5, 8, 12-16, and 26 have been amended to better emphasize differences between the embodiments disclosed in the specification and the cited references. Claims 6, 7, 9-11, 17, and 20-25 have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite features relating to the use of first and second index values and operations that a performed based on the expiration of a storing period. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite setting a first index value of the multimedia message, wherein the first index value is set as a value to discriminate the multimedia message from other multimedia messages; storing the multimedia message having the set first index value in a storage device; and receiving information including a second index value from the user agent, wherein the second index value indicates whether the multimedia message to be forwarded is a new multimedia message or a previously sent multimedia message.

In addition, claim 1 recites searching whether the multimedia message to be forwarded exists in the storage device based on a comparison of the second index value in the information received from the user agent and the first index value set in the stored multimedia message; and forwarding the multimedia message produced by the search. If a storing time of the multimedia message in the storage device elapses, the second index value is set as a value indicating a new multimedia message even though the multimedia message to be forwarded is a previously sent multimedia message. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Furtherance of claim 1 and its dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 3 has been amended to recite that "the information includes an address or telephone number of the receiving side's user agent and the second message." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Dependent claim 4 recites that "the second index value is set as a value corresponding to '0' when the multimedia message to be forwarded is a new multimedia message or changed." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Dependent claim 5 recites that "the second index value is set as a value corresponding to other than '0' when the multimedia message to be forwarded is a previously sent multimedia message." These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite the additional steps of retrieving a multimedia message having a same index value in a mailbox if the multimedia message is a previously sent multimedia message; inserting information of a receiving side in the retrieved multimedia message; and transmitting the multimedia message to a user agent on the receiving side, wherein if a storing time of the multimedia message in the mailbox elapses, the index value is set as a value indicating a new multimedia message even though the multimedia message to be forwarded is a previously sent multimedia message.
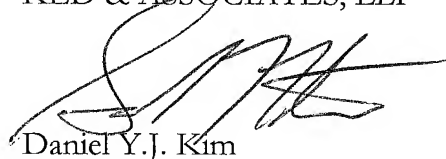
These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Furtherance of claim 8 and its dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 26 has been amended to recite that, if a storing time of the multimedia message stored in the server elapses, the user agent sets the index value as a value indicating a new multimedia message even through the multimedia message is a previously sent multimedia message. These features are not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether taken alone or in combination. Furtherance of claim 26 and its dependent claims to allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP

Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186

Samuel W. Ntiros
Registration No. 39,318

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 DYK/SWN/krf
Date: June 25, 2009
Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610
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